Appendix I.

[Vide answer to starred Question No. 1372 asked by Sri K. R. Nallasivam on behalf of Sri A. R. Marimuthu at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 24th August 1961, page 757 supra.]

In any area affected by a notification introducing compulsory elementary education it is obligatory on the part of the parent of a child to send his child to school so long as it is of school age.

Under the existing orders, committees are constituted in every compulsory area, the main duties of which are :—

(i) to prepare lists of pupils of school-age who are not in the school ;

(ii) to organize visits to guardians or do such propaganda work as may be considered desirable to attract more pupils into school or advise guardians; and

(iii) to investigate all cases in which children who should be at school have been absent.

The enthusiasm of the public is roused and the co-operation of the parents is obtained in the enforcement of the scheme by holding school improvement conferences, provision of mid-day meals to poor pupils thereby securing additional enrolment in schools. Books and slates are also supplied to poor pupils in compulsory areas.

Action is taken against defaulters according to the rules framed under the Elementary Education Act. The Act authorizes the imposition of penalties on defaulting guardians. During the year 1959–60 action was taken against 2,413 defaulters.

In the opinion of the Government the persuasive measures referred to above will yield better results than the enforcement of the penal provisions of the Elementary Education Act.